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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

11 March 1968

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Warsaw Rioting Resumes

Persons other than students appear to have been involved in the Warsaw demonstrations, when they broke out anew on Monday noon after a quiet but tense Sunday. Some students from Lodz and Karkow are also said to be converging on Warsaw. According to Western press accounts, up to 50 of the several hundred demonstrators reportedly arrested during the rioting Friday and Saturday have been summarily tried and given four to six month sentences. Some 60 persons reportedly were injured. The regime has denied rumors of two deaths among the students.

There is new evidence that at least some of the students are being directly encouraged by the recent events in Czechoslovakia. Chants of "greetings to our Czech brothers," have been heard. There are also rumors that Warsaw workers are preparing to go on strike at an "opportune" moment.

Commenting on the riots, the 11 March issue of the party daily charged unnamed "political bankrupts" with inciting the youth. It also professed astonishment that the sons and daughters of middle level officials were among those involved, hinting at action against their parents. A pro-regime Catholic paper has injected the anti-Semitic issue into the crisis by charging that "Zionists in Poland want to turn the intellectuals and youth against the primary duty...to Peoples Poland."

The only relatively calming voice was that of Cardinal Wyszynski who told his Warsaw parishioners on Sunday that "Christians must never imitate those who strike them." He made no direct reference to the riots, but warned against the "double-edged sword of social hatred."

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COMMENT: As the demonstrations threaten to spread to other elements of the population, the regime is clearly faced with a dilemma. It cannot allow the riots to continue, but giving in to student demands--which center on the reinstatement of two students expelled last week for starting the unrest--would be nearly as damaging. The regime still has the power to suppress the riots, but may not be subsequently able to control the resentment which this would engender.

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### Soviet Fighters Buzz West Berlin

Two Soviet fighters flew over West Berlin on 9 March, passing approximately one mile north of the Tempelhof control tower at an altitude below 700 feet. The Berlin Mission reported that the fighters apparently flew over all three western sectors of Berlin.

The Allies protested the flights that day in the Berlin Air Safety Center, and were informed by the chief Soviet controller that the incident was not premeditated, that he would investigate further, and that the pilots would be held responsible.

The Mission commented, however, that taking into account the favorable weather conditions and the unusually low altitude involved, it appears most improbable that the flights were accidental. It added that the Soviets might have been trying to show that although they did not harass Berlin in connection with the Bundestag Week (which ended on the 8th), they might do so the next time such a week is held.

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In an earlier cable, the Mission pointed out that the Soviet decision not to act against the Bundestag Week was presumably not due to poor climatic conditions. The weather would not have prevented air harassment over West Berlin.

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#### Decree Threatens Neo-Nazis Transiting the GDR

The East German government has issued a decree, effective today, prohibiting members of the West German neo-Nazi NPD from transiting the GDR. According to the decree, NPD members from West Berlin as well as from the Federal Republic are subject to expulsion from the GDR or can be held for "investigatory proceedings" if necessary. The ruling also applies to anyone "engaged in Neo-Nazi activities," whether a member of the NPD or not.

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COMMENT: Implementation of this decree could lead to difficulties for the Bonn coalition government which has little use for the NPD, but whose members as West German citizens are under the protection of the Federal Republic. Furthermore, the East German penchant for labelling innocent acts as "neo-Nazi activities" is well known and such a catchall might jeopardize the well-being of any West German citizen traveling through the GDR.

The timing on issuing the decree suggests it may have been prompted by the failure to dissuade Bonn from holding Bundestag working sessions in West Berlin last week.

#### Bulgarian Reaction to the Rumanian Walkout

Rumania's walkout from the Budapest Communist meeting on 29 February will not alter the goals of the meeting, according to Vladimir Kostov a well-connected Bulgarian journalist who covered the meeting. Kostov claims that Rumanian divergencies were "more or less foreseen" and a

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great majority of parties remain in favor of an international Communist conference. Kostov admitted, however, that deviations exist which range from absolute independence of parties (Rumania?) to those who underrate the significance of independent parties (USSR?).

COMMENT: Bulgaria has consistently supported Soviet International Communist Conference (ICC) proposals, but prefers to characterize the conference as a means to create favorable circumstances for further independence. The Budapest speech of Sofia's delegate, Boris Velchev loyally supported the Soviet position on ICC, but also protected some Bulgarian options which serve Bulgarian national interests. Unlike Suslov, who spoke of West German revanchism and the "fascist coup in Greece," Velchev avoided direct mention of the FRG or Greece. In addition, Suslov did not mention Yugoslavia, while Velchev noted that criticism of Yugoslavia in 1960 should not prevent their participation in a new conference.

#### Netherlands Foreign Minister to Visit Yugoslavia

Netherlands foreign minister Luns will visit Yugoslavia on 12-17 March. According to diplomatic sources in The Hague there is no formal agenda for the talks, which will deal mainly with European economic community matters and Dutch-Yugoslav trade relations. A treaty on economic, industrial, and technical cooperation may be signed. Luns is "most likely" to call on Tito at Brioni.

COMMENT: The visit, Luns first to Yugoslavia since 1960, is his fifth to Eastern Europe since early last year. The Netherlands recently joined the former "Group of Nine" small European states informally cooperating in seeking detente in Europe. Under the circumstances, European security probably will be discussed.

NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE DIVISION